

Guided Busway Update August 2008

Welcome to the August 2008 edition of the Guided Busway newsletter from Cambridgeshire County Council.

The guided busway arrives in Cambridge

A major landmark was reached earlier this month with the completion of the first 10-kilometre stretch of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway from Longstanton to Milton Road in Cambridge.

The gantry, the machine that is laying the guideway beams, is now being brought back to the site compound in Longstanton and will shortly start laying the track towards St Ives.

Since the gantry went into operation last October the County Council's contractor, Edmund Nuttall Ltd, has laid in excess of 2800 pre-cast beams, which make up this section of the busway.

During the coming months the construction of bus stops and the maintenance track will start on the Longstanton to Cambridge section.



Guided Busway team at guideway near Milton Road

Start of works at St Ives Park & Ride

Work on the new Park & Ride site in St Ives started earlier this summer. The site will initially provide spaces for 500 cars and will have a pedestrian and cyclist link into the centre of St Ives.

The Park & Ride site is being built off Meadow Lane, to the east of and next to the A1096 (Harrison Way) – roughly opposite Waitrose.

Cars will access it from the existing Meadow Lane roundabout on the A1096, which also provides access to the town centre and Waitrose.

The journey time from the St Ives Park & Ride site to Cambridge Science Park will be just 20 minutes.

Bus services, tickets and bus routes on the guideway

As the construction of the busway has progressed, we have received lots of enquiries about how people can use the busway. We thought it would be helpful to provide you with answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Q. When will buses start to run?

Buses will start carrying passengers on the busway in spring 2009.

Q. Who will run the buses?

Stagecoach and Whippet Coaches will run the buses on the busway.

Q. How often will there be a bus?

The buses will run at least every ten minutes during the daytime from Monday to Saturday and less frequently in the evenings and on Sundays.

Q. Where will the buses run?

The exact routes the buses will take off the guided sections have not been agreed with the bus companies yet. There will be buses from Huntingdon into Cambridge and also buses through Cambridge to Addenbrooke's Hospital and Trumpington Park and Ride. When the exact routes and timetables have been agreed, they will be widely publicised much closer to the time of opening.

Q. How much are tickets likely to cost?

Bus fares will be similar to current bus ticket prices. Existing tickets, such as the Megarider and the Whippet ten-journey ticket will also be accepted on the Guideway. When the exact ticket prices have been agreed, they will be widely publicised much closer to the time of opening in spring 2009.

Q. Can I use my concessionary bus pass on the guided busway?

Yes, you can use your valid bus pass under the same terms and conditions as on other buses.

Bus tested on the guided busway earlier in the year



Busway team have “rail-y” good gift for 8 year old



James Sansom with his railway sign and members of the Guided Busway team

Workers from the Guided Busway project made a dream come true for an 8 year-old by presenting him with an old railway sign he had asked for.

James noticed the sign in Longstanton during trips to visit his grandmother in Over and asked his dad what would happen to the sign now the busway was being built.

So, James' dad got in touch with the Busway team to see if James could have the sign.

He said, “James is a huge railway fan and wondered if there was any way he could have the sign that tells the train to stop and open the gate, with a large red circle on it. I knew it would be an unusual request for the Busway team, so when they got back to me to say it was no problem for James to have the sign I was really pleased and very grateful.”

Update on road works

The on-going works on Milton Road in Cambridge are progressing well. The works on the B1050 in Longstanton are scheduled to be completed later this autumn.

Road works on Hills Road bridge

A box-shaped underpass is currently being constructed into the embankment of Hills Road bridge in Cambridge.

These works are progressing well, but further restrictions to one lane for all traffic and one footpath will be necessary in October. This will only happen in off-peak periods (9.30am to 4pm and after 6pm).

These restrictions have to be put in place to allow deep piles (19 metres) to be drilled into the bridge safely. The equipment that is needed for this work is very large

and safety is of paramount importance. We are very sorry for the additional inconvenience this work will cause. We will be working at weekends and later into the evenings to get this finished as quickly as possible.

Swavesey roadworks

The County Council has started work on a new junction at Over Road in Swavesey (also known as Station Road). The works carried out at the moment can be done using temporary traffic lights.

From about mid September the road needs to be closed to all motor vehicles for approximately 7 weeks. A route for cyclists and pedestrians will still be maintained at all times. When the road is closed, the old road surface will be removed, a concrete slab for the

Piling works at Hills Road bridge

busway will be constructed and the road surface will be re-instated. The concrete slab, that crosses the junction, involves several pours of concrete, each with setting time, shuttering and reinforcement having to be set up for each one.

The diversion route during the road closure will be well sign posted. We have produced a separate leaflet explaining the diversion routes, including maps, and more details on the road works. If you would like a copy of the leaflet, please contact us using the details on the back of this leaflet or visit our website.



Completed Windmill bridge



Opening of Windmill bridge

The construction of the Windmill bridge, between the villages of Over and Longstanton has been completed and the bridge is now opened.

The old railway bridge was taken down earlier this year and replaced with a higher bridge to enable double-decker buses to use the guided busway.

The completion of Windmill bridge means that the finishing of all three major spans being built for the guided busway is just months away. The two other bridges left to finish, the railway bridge near Addenbrooke's Hospital and the River Great Ouse viaduct, are both near completion.

Talk to the Artists! Public Art for the guided busway

The Guided Busway team now has four artists working on public art for the guided busway, and they would love to hear from you. Each of the artists specialises in different fields of art.

Catrin Jones works with glass, it's important to Catrin that her designs are meaningful and beautiful.

Jo Roberts is fascinated by journeys. In previous work, Jo has produced books and maps based on the individual journeys of local people.

Mark Dixon has been working recently with wireless and LED technology, and now has a keen interest in the concrete

construction techniques being used on the guided busway.

Oliver Hein is a sculptor and he is keen to investigate the history and landscape.

The artists want to find out more about your memories, recollections or events. It could be a quotation, or some lines of poetry, maybe an old map, photograph or drawing, or information about an archaeological find. It could be something personal, some family history, some local phrases or pieces of dialect. It could be something about special animals or plants. Anything that you think is important to or tells a story about your area.



Catrin Jones working with stained glass

If you would like to get information to the artists, please contact the Guided Busway team in the first instance, ideally by sending a postcard with your information on or an email, so that it can be forwarded to the artists.

Construction timeline

As with any large construction project this programme is subject to change. We will update the programme in each edition of this newsletter.

Activity	Start	Finish
Further construction from Longstanton to Cambridge	July 07	Spring 09
Longstanton to St Ives construction	Aug 08	Spring 09
Work on Great Ouse bridge	May 07	Nov 08
Work on Hills Road bridge	May 08	Feb 09
Further construction from Cambridge Railway Station to Trumpington	March 08	Spring 09
Construction of St Ives P&R	July 08	Mar 09
Construction of Longstanton P&R	Autumn 08	Spring 09
Cambridgeshire Guided Busway completed and opened		Spring 09

How can I find out more?

If you want to know more about the Guided Busway project or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact the Guided Busway team on **01223 716972**, e-mail us on guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or write to us at

Cambridgeshire County Council, RES 1504, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

There are also lots of details about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/guidedbusway

If you would like a copy of the text in this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or another language please contact the Guided Busway team using the details opposite.

The next update about the project will be available in October 2008.